

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

865-D 105-

SEE 865d.01/107 FOR #1710

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED May 29, 1936
TO NAME 1-1127

REGARDING:

Policing. Notice from Diredawa that a city police force composed of native elements under Italian officers has been substituted for the former French gendarmerie.

Policing.

Among other reports on the subject of police services in the new Empire is the notice from Diredawa that a city police force composed of native elements under Italian officers has been substituted for the former French gendarmerie.

865D.105/1

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.01/119 FOR 1733

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED June 10, 1936
TO NAME 1-1127 ..

REGARDING: Formation of Police service units in Italian
East Africa. Instructions have been given for
the creation of a carabinieri legion to take charge
of all carabinieri units in Eritrea and Tigrai.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.01/142 FOR Despatch #1756
FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED June 26, 1936
TO _____ NAME _____ 1-1137 ...

REGARDING: Police organization- Italian East Africa. The policing of city of Addis Ababa is being placed in hands of Royal Carabinieri, as far as possible.

The policing of the city of Addis Ababa is being placed, as far as possible, in the hands of Royal Carabinieri, it is reported. The "Foreign Legion" of the Tevere Division, composed of volunteers from abroad, has arrived in Addis Ababa, releasing the seasoned Sixth Black Shirt Group of mountain and stern troops which have been transferred to the outskirts of the city, according to press reports. As the seasoned troops are freed from the necessity of doing police duty, the work of pacification in the remaining sore spots of the country should be accomplished more rapidly.

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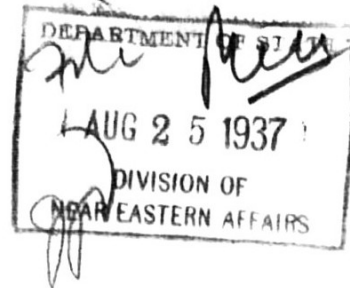
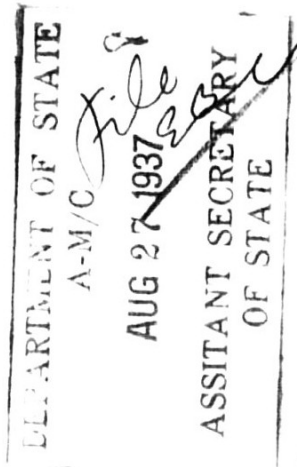
EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROME, August 7, 1937

1937 AUG 24 PM 2 25

No. 526

DIVISION OF
Subject: COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
Organization of the Colonial Police Corps.



865D.105/4

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 318 of April 14, 1937, I have the honor to enclose a copy of a translation prepared by the Military Attaché to the Embassy of a Royal Decree defining the organization and employment of the recently instituted "Colonial Police Corps".

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Edward L. Reed

Edward L. Reed
Counselor of Embassy.

Enclosure:

Copy of Translation of
Royal Decree

SEP 2 1937

FILED

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FOR ORIGINATOR'S PUBLICATION
IN SERVICE JOURNALS.

2700

ITALY (POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS)

Subject : Public Order and Safety - General.

Organization of the Colonial Police Corps.

With reference to ITALY No. 15,852-3030 and Art. 4 of
ITALY No. 15,920-3030, the following is a translation of the Royal
Decree on the organization and employment of the recently instituted
"Colonial Police Corps".

PART I.

Functions and missions.

Art. 1.

The Colonial Police Corps assures order and safety in
Italian Africa and may be employed by the political authorities to
accomplish the imperial aims of the Fascist State, to defend insti-
tutions and territory and to protect the physical and moral welfare
of the population.

The Colonial Police Corps guards borders, assures the
execution of laws, regulations and edicts of the authorities, the
respect of religions and customs, the tutorship of labor and property,
and the personal safety of individuals; it takes part and directs
relief work in case of public and private misfortunes, and carries
out all other police missions assigned by the Ministry of Italian
Africa and government officials of Italian Africa.

Art. 2.

The Colonial Police Corps is organized as a military body,
is the essential and main nucleus of the civil force in Italian Africa,
is part of the armed forces of the State and takes part in military,
police, and war operations. It is controlled by the Minister of
Italian Africa.

Art. 3.

Civil police services in Italian Africa are carried out
only by the Colonial Police Corps which is charged with the following
missions throughout the whole territory:

a) political police service: public order and patrol;
general information; association and meetings; foreigners; political
police records; border police control; police service on communica-
tion lines and transportation; execution of special provisions of
the government; assistance and convoy duty;

b) judicial police service: crime prevention and police
measures; repression of crime and investigations; general records;
execution of judicial sentences;

c) administrative police service: police authorizations
pertaining to weapons, explosives, dangerous industrial activities,

entertainments, public enterprises, printing concerns, agencies, pedlars, servants and porters, detective agencies and private police, lotteries, boarding houses, public posting and any other matter subject to police authorization; police records, control over moral customs; social protection and other forms of public welfare work.

Art. 4.

Officers and agents of the Colonial Police Corps serving with the Ministry of Italian Africa have the same qualifications and powers delegated to officers and police agents of the Public Security Police controlled by the Ministry of the Interior.

In Italian Africa, officers and agents of the Colonial Police Corps have the functions, prerogatives, qualifications and powers set forth in the present regulation and in the police ordinances.

They must be considered as permanently in service and may not for any reason be detached from their particular duties.

Officers and M.G.O.'s of the Colonial Police Corps have the attributes of officers of the judicial police and the national police agents of the Corps those of agents of the judicial police.

Officers of the Colonial Police Corps are responsible for and direct the services of their Corps even when employed together with other police forces or the armed forces in general.

Art. 5.

Officers and agents of the Colonial Police Corps are controlled by their headquarters as regards discipline and promotion, services and administration of materiel and funds assigned.

The Colonial Police Corps Headquarters depend on the local governorship authorities (general governors, governors, provincial commissioners, government commissioners, residents, vice-residents) as regards services.

Art. 6.

The Headquarters of the Colonial Police Corps correspond:

a) through and by signature of the governmental authorities on which they depend in all matters pertinent to political police service;

b) directly among themselves in all matters connected with judicial and administrative police services and, in cases of exceptional gravity and urgency, even in political police matters, in which case they must give immediate notice of their communications to the said governmental authorities; through channels in their own Corps in all other matters of service;

c) directly with other public authorities of the colonies for internal services, political police service excluded; by authority of the governmental officials by whom they are controlled, for all other service reasons, except in cases of exceptional gravity and urgency.

In matters pertaining to internal services the general inspectorates, police headquarters and police stations may communicate directly with the police headquarters and stations and Carabinieri headquarters of the Kingdom.

Art. 7.

A future regulation will set forth the authorities, state administrations and organizations which may request reports, investigations and information of the Colonial Police Headquarters and indicate the subjects to which such requests may refer.

In case of secrecy or for special motives, commanders may turn over requests to police commissioners who, by authority of the governors, may give these requests no issue.

PART II.

Officers and Personnel.

Art. 8.

The members of the Colonial Police Corps are subject to the disciplinary regulations contained in the general regulation of the Corps set forth in Art. 4, Royal Decree December 14, 1936, No. 2574 (ITALY No. 15,920-3030) and the sanctions of the penal code of the Army for the military crimes indicated in the regulations.

The salute and other honors prescribed in the disciplinary regulations for the Army is prescribed between members of the Colonial Police Corps and members of the other armed forces and police organizations.

Art. 9.

Officers have the technical and military qualifications set forth in Royal Decree December 14, 1936, No. 2574.

Officers and N.C.O.'s command dependent units and personnel and have all attributes and powers inherent with their command.

Art. 10.

The organization of agents (policemen) of the Colonial Police Corps is set forth by rank in the attached table A.

Art. 11.

National officers and agents of the Colonial Police Corps are divided by rank and are equivalent in status, as regards military functions, to members of the other armed forces and other police organizations of the State according to the attached table B.

Art. 12.

The ranks of native police agents is established in the attached table A; these ranks are not correspondent to the ranks held by national agents.

Native agents are subject to the special dispositions established in the general regulations of the Corps.

Art. 13.

According to the exigencies of the internal service, the Colonial Police Corps takes a representative part in parades, reviews, and ceremonies of the other armed forces.

It furnishes guards and honor details in continuous service or in turn with other armed forces.

Art. 14.

By provision of the Minister of Italian Africa the uniform regulations of the Corps will be approved.

PART III.

Organization.

Art. 15.

The Colonial Police Corps Headquarters are fixed and mobile. Fixed headquarters are:

- a) General Headquarters, which is a central office and subdivision of the Ministry of Italian Africa;
- b) General Inspectorates controlled by the respective general governors of Italian East Africa and by the general governor of Libya;
- c) Police headquarters controlled respectively by the governors of Italian East Africa, the governor of Addis Abeba and the provincial commissioners of Libya;
- d) Commissary police offices controlled by the commissioners of the governorships;
- e) Police sections controlled by residents;
- f) Police stations and posts controlled by vice-residents or residents.

The headquarters indicated in letters b), c) and d) are established in all administrative areas by the governorship authorities and situated in the respective chief towns of such areas.

The headquarters indicated in letters e) and f) may be established where necessary.

Police sections are established outside the sites of residences by order of the Minister of Italian Africa when proposed by the governor. They will be controlled by the vice-resident in case they are established within the territory of a vice-residence.

Police sections in the site of residences, and police stations and posts anywhere, are established by order of the governor.

The governor's order will indicate the area which the headquarters control.

The institution of new sections, stations and posts must be effected according to the availability of personnel set forth in the attached table A.

Art. 16.

Mobile headquarters, permanent or temporary, are the following:

- a) Colonial police detachments;
- b) Colonial police bands and other similar native bodies commanded by officers and N. C. O.'s of the colonial police.

Units of greater strength called Colonial Police Columns may be formed in case of serious public disorders, disasters or exceptional circumstances.

Permanent mobile headquarters are instituted by order of the Minister of Italian Africa and temporary mobile headquarters by order of the governors.

Art. 17.

The Colonial Police Corps includes one or more training schools for the training of national and native personnel.

The establishment and operation of these schools are set forth in the general regulations of the Corps.

Art. 18.

The general headquarters is the central directive organ of the Ministry of Italian Africa for police services in Italian Africa.

The general headquarters directs and regulates the technical functioning of the general inspectorates and police headquarters except in matters coming within the authority of the governorship authorities indicated in Art. 5 of the present regulation; it examines and proposes measures for coordinating activities and for detaching and employing police forces operating throughout Italian Africa.

Art. 19.

The Chief of the Colonial Police and general commandant of the Corps, who is controlled directly by the Minister of Italian Africa, is with the General Headquarters.

The post of chief of the colonial police, in case of the general commandant's absence, may be filled by the general inspector as vice-chief of the colonial police; this latter title is conferred by provision of the Minister of Italian Africa.

Art. 20.

The general headquarters includes the secretarial office of the chief of the colonial police and four offices: (1) coordination; (2) political police; (3) judicial and administrative police; and (4) technical and administrative.

An officer of grade 6 or 7 is chief of each office.

The total number of officers and agents assigned to the General Headquarters must not exceed 15 % of the respective lists.

Art. 21.

The general inspectors coordinate and supervise the functioning of all organs and services of the Corps and the activity of personnel; they examine and propose to general governors measures necessary to coordinate activities of police forces operating in both Italian East Africa and Libya and their detachment and employment.

The general inspectors receive instructions from the directorate of political affairs of their respective general governorship and are controlled by these directorates according to the nature of affairs at hand.

An officer of grade 5 or 6 is at the head of each general inspectorate.

The organic strength of personnel attached to each inspectorate is determined by the Minister of Italian Africa.

Art. 22.

The police headquarters are responsible for the functioning of services in their respective area, may issue orders and request their execution by officers and agents of the police force.

They issue instructions to colonial police organs and may be

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charged with urban and municipal police functions in general.

The police headquarters examine and propose to governors (or to provincial commissaries) provisions for coordinating the activities of the police forces operating in their respective territories and concerning their detachment and employment.

In Italian East Africa the police headquarters receive instructions from the directory of police affairs of their respective governorship or from the governor of Addis Abeba and are controlled by the directories of governorships according to the nature of the affairs at hand.

In Libya, police headquarters receive instructions from the officers of political and civil affairs of the respective provincial commissary and are controlled by other offices according to the nature of the affairs at hand.

An officer of grade 6 or 7 is at the head of each police headquarters.

The strength of personnel attached to each police headquarters is determined by the Minister of Italian Africa.

Art. 23.

The commissary police offices and police sections carry out the instructions of their respective governorship authorities as regards police and security service in the territory under their control.

Police offices have officers of grades 8 or 9 and strictly necessary personnel, the number of which is established by the Minister of Italian Africa.

Police sections are commanded by officers of grades 10 or 11.

Art. 24.

Police stations are organic units which provide for the discipline, administration and sheltering of personnel.

They are commanded by N.C.O.'s. They may have police functions or merely disciplinary and administrative functions when located in the sites of police headquarters, commissary offices, or police sections.

They are controlled by the police headquarters of the respective territorial area.

Police posts are commanded by national or native N.C.O.'s and are administrated by the nearest station of which they are part.

Art. 25.

In the general regulations of the Corps will be set forth the supplies and equipment to be assigned to each fixed or mobile headquarters, animals and motor vehicles, and land, water, and air materiel to facilitate the activity of personnel and permit rapid movement.

The same regulations will also authorize the possible formation, with each headquarters, of horse, camel, cyclists, motorcyclists, tank, motor vehicle, sea, river, lake and air units, according to the exigencies of the service.

Art. 26.

The officers of the colonial police corps, whatever their employment or mission are required to have quarters in the sites of their headquarters or barracks.

Where quarters are not available at such sites, quarters will be furnished in the immediate vicinity of same.

PART IV.

Administration.

Art. 27.

The administration and accounting of all organizations of the Colonial Police Corps is carried out by the Administrative Section, Office IV of the General Headquarters.

This Section, according to the administrative-accounting regulations, examines that part of the colonial budgets that refers to expenditures for police service, examines the accounting statements compiled periodically by the administrative units of the Corps, and provides for the supplies of the Corps.

The Section also computes the estimated expenditures for personnel, for operating offices and services of the General Headquarters, handling funds for same.

To the administrative section may be attached a field officer of the Administrative Corps of the Army assisted by an officer of the Colonial Police Corps.

Art. 28.

Police headquarters as well as the administrative section, Office IV of the General Headquarters, are also administrative units having the same functions as prescribed for autonomous administrative units of the colonial troops.

The finance officer at the said administrative units may be a company officer of the Army Administrative Corps.

Art. 29.

The administration of personnel, offices and services of the general inspectorates is handled by the police headquarters.

Art. 30.

The general regulation will set forth the general instructions for administering the Colonial Police Corps.

COLONIAL POLICE CORPS

Table A.

Agents (Policemen)

National (Italian) :

Marshals-major	80	
Chief marshals)	180
Ordinary marshals)	
Brigadiers	140	
Vice-brigadiers	250	650
Picked guards	150	
Police guards	1350	
Student guards	100	1600
Total national agents :		<u>2250</u>

Table A (cont'd)

Natives (including members of the colonial police bands and other similar formations) :

Seimbassi chief)	130
Seimbassi)	
Bulumbassi chief)	270
Bulumbassi)	
Muntan		500
Assari of the police		5000
Assari student		400
		<hr/>
Total native agents :		6300
		<hr/>
Total Agents :		8550

* * * *

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Table B

Table showing corresponding ranks between the Colonial Police Corps and other Armed Forces and Police Corps of the State.

Grade	Colonial Police Corps		Corresponding rank in the Army and other armed forces or police organizations
	Position	Military Rank	
4th	Chief of Col. Police, General Commandant		General of Division
5th	Inspector General,	Major General	General of Brigade
6th	Police Chief	Colonel	Colonel
7th	Vice Police Chief	Lt. Colonel	Lt. Colonel
8th	Inspector Chief	Major	Major
9th	First Inspector	Captain	Captain
10th	Inspector	1st Lieut.	1st Lieut.
11th	Asst. Inspector	2nd Lieut.	2nd Lieut.
-	Aspirant Inspector	Aspirant	Aspirant
	Marshal major		Marshal major
	Marshal chief		Marshal chief
	Ordinary marshal		Ordinary marshal
	Brigadier		Sergeant major
	Vice brigadier		Sergeant
	Picked guard		Corporal major
	Police guard		Corporal
	Student guard		Soldier

The following table shows the headquarters and officer strength of the Colonial Police Corps as reported in ITALY No. 15,920-3030, April 7, 1937 (page 11) :

COLONIAL POLICE CORPS

Colonial Police Corps List, Group A.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>No. of places</u>	<u>Military rank</u>
4th	Chief of Colonial Police	1	Commander General
5th	Inspector General	3	Major General
6th	Police Chief	10	Colonel
7th	Vice Police Chief	15	Lieut. Colonel
8th	Inspector Chief	18	Major
9th	First Inspector	45	Captain
10th	Inspector)	50	1st Lieut.
11th	Asst. Inspector)		2nd Lieut.
-	Aspirant Inspector	-----	Aspirant
	Total:	<u>142</u>	

G. H. PAINE,
Colonel, P. A. C., U. S. A. C.
Military Attaché.

Sources: "Gazzetta Ufficiale No. 174, July 29, 1937.
R. D. No. 1211, June 10, 1937.

Central File: Decimal File 865D.105, Internal Affairs Of States, Public Order, Safety, Health, And Works. Charities And Philanthropic Organizations., Italian East Africa, Police Organization., May 29, 1936. 29 May 1936. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link. [gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109730849%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC](https://www.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109730849%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC). Accessed 18 June 2025.